

**City of Selah
Council Minutes
of
November 25, 2003**

Regular Meeting
Selah Council Chambers
115 West Naches Avenue
Selah, WA 98942

A. Call to Order Mayor Bob Jones called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Jerry Kobes, Keith Larson, Pete McNew, Allen Schmid, Scott Smeback

Members Excused: Herb Schmidt

Staff Present: Frank Sweet, City Supervisor; Bob Noe, City Attorney; Rick Gutierrez, Police Chief; Jerry Davis, Fire Chief; Joe Henne, Director of Public Works; John Gawlik, Building and Code Enforcement Officer; Dale Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman McNew led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Lowell Welker led the group in prayer.

Mayor Jones welcomed the students present, noting the importance of their learning how their government works.

D. Agenda Changes

E. Public Appearances

1. Community Pride Award

Mayor Bob Jones presented Jeff Gaskill with the community Pride Award for his work in the application of fiberglass to the swimming pool at Wixson Park. He noted that each year there are maintenance problems with the pool. He stated Mr. Gaskill spent time obtaining and applying an improved product to the pool at Wixson Park.

F. Getting To Know Our Businesses

G. Communications

1. Oral
2. Written
 - a. Letter from Julie Marshall, Cascade Natural Gas

Mayor Jones introduced Sheila Ross from Cascade Natural Gas who explained the program through which businesses could donate to help less fortunate citizens pay for their winter fuel.

Councilman Kobes asked that this letter be posted on the City's bulletin board.

H. Proclamations/Announcements

I. Consent Agenda

All items listed with an asterisk (*) were considered as part of the Consent Agenda.

- * 1. Approval of Minutes: November 10, 2003
- * 2. Approval of Claims & Payroll – Claims check nos. 41998 - 42079 for a total of \$252,251.08, Payroll checks nos. 52385 - 52454 for a total of \$93,665.01 and Payroll checks nos. 52455 – 52546 for a total of \$123,396.65.

Mayor Jones read the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Larson moved and Councilman McNew seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

J. Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing on Application to the State of Washington on Behalf of the City of Selah To Assist R & Q Parts and Machine, Inc.'s Development Loan Fund Project

City Attorney Bob Noe gave the background of this grant stating the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development provides money from the Rural Washington Loan Fund to support local business. R & Q Parts went through the process to obtain “gap financing” of \$300,000. R & Q can get \$200,000 through conventional loans and \$100,000 through this state program. He noted that by state constitution, cities are prohibited from loaning or giving money; however, the City is not restricted from assisting businesses in obtaining state or federal funding. He reviewed the placement of ads and notification of the Public Hearing and receipt of comments.

Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing, calling first for speakers in favor of the grant application and then for those opposed.

Seeing no one rise to speak either for or against, Mayor Jones closed the Public Hearing.

2. Public Hearing on the 2004 Budget

Clerk/Treasurer Dale Novobielski addressed the Council, noting Department Heads and Council Members have been meeting during the fall to determine the budget for 2004. He stated that at present \$6,375,626 is projected for total operating expenses, approximately \$210,000 more than last year. In addition, there is another \$5,861,647 projected for capital outlay (equipment and construction) in particular, approximately \$3,000,000 for improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, resulting in a grand total \$12, 237,000 for 2004, about \$111,000 less than 2003. He noted that approximately one-third of that is for the General Fund.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet noted the impact of the closure of Hi Country Foods, which relative to the budget means the City anticipates increases in water, sewer and garbage rates. He noted Hi Country accounted for not only 106 local jobs, but also 39% of sewer revenue and about 10% of water revenue for the City.

Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing, calling first for speakers in favor and then for those opposed.

Seeing no one rise to speak either for or against, Mayor Jones closed the Public Hearing.

K. New Business

L. Old Business

M. Resolutions

1. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Submit an Application to the State of Washington on Behalf of the City of Selah To Assist R & Q Parts and Machine, Inc.'s Development Loan Fund Project; Authorizing the Mayor To Provide such Additional Information as May Be Necessary To Secure Approval of the Grant Application; and, Authorizing the Mayor To Enter into an Agreement with the State of Washington for R & Q Parts and Machine Inc.'s Development Loan Fund Project upon Review and Approval of the Grant Documents by the City Council and the City's Legal Counsel

City Attorney Bob Noe explained that this Resolution follows up on the topic of the previous Public Hearing. It gives the Mayor the authority to complete the application and sign the subsequent agreement.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet stated the City will incur no liability for this loan, rather it is a “pass-through.”

Councilman Allen Schmid stated it is good thing to see importance of business community staying viable and moved approval of the Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Submit an Application to the State of Washington on Behalf of the City of Selah To Assist R & Q Parts and Machine, Inc.'s Development Loan Fund Project; Authorizing the Mayor To Provide such Additional Information as May Be Necessary To Secure Approval of the Grant Application; and, Authorizing the Mayor To Enter into an Agreement with the State of Washington for R & Q Parts and Machine Inc.'s Development Loan Fund Project upon Review and Approval of the Grant Documents by the City Council and the City's Legal Counsel. Councilman Smeback seconded. Roll was called. Councilman Smeback – yes, Councilman Schmid – yes; Councilman McNew – yes; Councilman Larson – yes; Councilman Kobes – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

N. Ordinances

1. Ordinance Amending Selah Municipal Code 8.70, Traffic, Schedules of Designated Streets Referred To In Ordinance, by Adding a new Section 8.70.080, "Use Of Compression Brakes Prohibited"; Providing for Severability; and, Establishing an Effective Date

Police Chief Rick Gutierrez noted this Ordinance was drafted in response to the concern expressed by resident John Tierney in a previous City Council meeting. He urged Council support, stating he will check with the State to determine where to place signs.

Councilman Schmid questioned whether the wording includes a prohibition of jake breaks on main thoroughfares since it mentions only residential areas.

City Attorney Bob Noe stated he could change the wording to say “in the City.”

Councilman McNew moved approval of the Ordinance Amending Selah Municipal Code 8.70, Traffic, Schedules of Designated Streets Referred To In Ordinance, by Adding a new Section 8.70.080, "Use Of Compression Brakes Prohibited"; Providing for Severability; and, Establishing an Effective Date with the wording “...in the City is in the public’s best interest.” Councilman Schmid seconded. Roll was called. Councilman Smeback – yes, Councilman Schmid – yes; Councilman McNew – yes; Councilman Larson – yes; Councilman Kobes – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Ordinance Amending the 2003 Budget for Unanticipated Revenues and Expenditures

Clerk/Treasurer Dale Novobielski called Council Members’ attention to the memo attached to this Ordinance explaining the various areas in the budget that require adjustment because they were not included in the 2003 budget. He stated billing for the State Audit was anticipated after the end of 2003, whereas the audit occurred earlier in the Fall. He stated the adjustment of \$5,700 was for the City’s part of the Police Reserve Officer scooters. He noted full payment of the 2003 contracted amount to the Yakima Valley Regional Library will deplete library reserves and pull in additional funds from the Current Expense Fund.

Councilman Kobes moved approval of the Ordinance Amending the 2003 Budget for Unanticipated Revenues and Expenditures. Councilman Schmid seconded. Roll was called. Councilman Smeback – yes, Councilman Schmid – yes; Councilman McNew – yes; Councilman Larson – yes; Councilman Kobes – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

O. Communications

1. Oral

Gina McCoy, 40 Gopher Road, Selah addressed the Council to request their support of a vote for annexation into the Yakima valley Regional Library.

Mayor Jones noted he has discussed this issue with Richard Pingrey and is putting together the sub-committee of Council Members and a committee from the Friends of the Library to discuss library issues. He noted discussion is needed on improvements that should be made in the library given the amount of revenue the YVRL receives from both City and County residents.

Mrs. McCoy stated her conviction that there needs to be a library.

Mayor Jones and Councilman Kobes assured her of the Council’s support for continuation of library services. Mayor Jones noted the City cannot live with an annual 6% raise.

P. Reports/Announcements

1. Mayor
2. Council Members
3. Boards
4. Departmental

- a. Planning Commission Minutes of November 4, 2003 – Approved
- b. Building Inspection/Code Enforcement Report – September/October 2003
- c. Police Department Monthly Report – October 2003

Public Works Director Joe Henne reported on plans to remove the tree in front of City Hall on the 4th of December and haul it to Millenium Park in Yakima for their Christmas celebration. He reported the City Christmas lights are up, tested and waterproofed. Finally, he reported the Crusher Canyon project was not selected for funding by the Transportation Improvement Board, noting it scored 11 points under the threshold. There ensued discussion about project funding, local street and road improvement needs, dangerous roads, etc.

Fire Chief Jerry Davis reported television stations KAPP and KNDO were out to cover turkey fryer fire story. He stated his department is working with AMR at Save-on-Foods to fill an ambulance with food donations. He stated there have been lots of chimney fires and roof fires lately.

Councilman Scott Smeback thanked Department Heads for their work on the budget. He noted the importance of stepping up as citizens to help the City get over loss of Hi Country.

Mayor Jones praised the Council for their hard work.

Councilman Kobes noted he received a letter to come to audit conference. City Supervisor Sweet stated he informed Auditors that the Finance Committee would meet with them at 9:00am Wednesday. Mr. Kobes asked if there are any surplus bicycles this year for the Kiwanis program. Chief Gutierrez responded that he would check.

Councilman McNew stated he wants to change seats with Councilman Smeback, noting he was also impressed with Department Heads during the budgeting process, particularly with their willingness and ability to answer questions. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Police Chief Rick Gutierrez reported the City will receive assistance from Granger and Moxee for the Whispers of Christmas parade. Mayor Jones noted that mutual aid between cities is most welcome.

Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Hagler reported the community Whispers of Christmas celebration will be held Saturday, December 6 following the parade. He further reported the winter Selah Signals is at print shop and will be out next week.

Mayor Jones reported Santa is getting ready. Community service kids helped to put candy bags together.

Administrative Assistant Julie Gray invited all present to attend the Yakima Valley Community Band Christmas Concert at Lince Elementary Monday, December 8 at 7:30pm.

Q. Executive Session

(No Executive Session Scheduled)

R. Adjournment

Council Member Kobes moved and Council Member Smeback seconded that the meeting be

adjourned. With voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:48pm.

Robert L. Jones, Mayor

Gerald Kobes Council Member

Keith Larson, Council Member

Peter McNew, Council Member

Allen Schmid, Council Member

Herb Schmidt, Council Member

Scott Smeback, Council Member

ATTEST:

Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer